Reviewer’s report

Title: FEV1 and FVC and Systemic Inflammation in a Spinal Cord Injury Cohort

Version: 0 Date: 28 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Salvatore Battaglia

Reviewer's report:

Hart and coworkers designed a study aimed at evaluating associations between biomarkers of systemic inflammation (IL-6 and CRP) with pulmonary function in a chronic SCI cohort.

The topic is a narrow field of interest, and the current literature on this topic is scarce.

Study design and analysis is ok to me. However I am not full convicted by proposed mechanisms. I'm not sure whether the relationship (lung function and IL-6 / CRP) is occurred by chance, or there is a causal link. The author presented this in their discussion, I encourage the authors to deeply discuss this aspect.

I suggest to perform an additional control experiment in healthy subjects to examine whether any of the observed associations between biomarkers and lung function were confined to SCI.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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